

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 8-13 and 21-33 are currently pending. Claims 1-7 and 14-20 are canceled by this amendment. New claims 21-33 are added. New claims 21-27 correspond with canceled claims 1-7. New claims 28-33 correspond with canceled claims 14-18 and 20. Claim 19 has been canceled, and a new claim corresponding to previous claim 19 has not been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

New matter is not being added to this application by way of this amendment. Support for new claims 21-27 may be found in original claims 1-7. Support for new claims 28-33 may be found in original claims 14-18 and 20. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of a misspelling. Claim 3 has been canceled and corresponding new claim 23 does not contain the spelling error of previous claim 3. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 is objected to under 37 CFR §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 18. Claim 19 is canceled by this amendment and a new claim corresponding to previous claim 19 has not been added rendering this objection moot. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-7, 14-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,498,657). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been canceled, and the corresponding new claim 21 has been made dependent upon claims 8 and 11. Claims 8-13 are indicated as allowable in the Office Action at page 6, second paragraph. In addition new claims 22-33 are each dependent upon claim 21. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are now allowable. An early reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark Konieczny (Reg. No. 47,715) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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